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## **FACT SHEET**

### **Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Reauthorization Act of 2009**

#### **Background on the Adam Walsh Act:**

In 2006, Congress passed the Adam Walsh Act to help protect the children from sexual predators. Under the Act, sex offenders must register with state or local jurisdictions after incarceration or while on probation. The Act expanded the National Sex Offender Registry by integrating the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensuring that law enforcement agencies across the United States have access to this information. **The Act further requires states to make registry information available to the public via government Internet websites.**

A number of new grant programs were also authorized to assist states in improving sex offender registration and related requirements of the Act. It is several of these grant programs and some related provisions that are expiring at the end of this year, though the registration requirements and related authorities are not.

The Adam Walsh Act is named for the son of John Walsh, who was abducted and murdered in 1981.

#### **Insufficient Funding for Adam Walsh Act Programs:**

- **Despite the importance of the Adam Walsh Act, many of the programs originally authorized have received insufficient or no direct funding from Congress.**
- **There are currently more than 100,000 missing sex offenders who have failed to register as required under current law.** These predators are working, attending school, and living in close proximity to our children unbeknownst to parents and law enforcement officials.
- And just this past weekend, one of these predators allegedly murdered a 13-year-old girl in Ohio. On Saturday afternoon, Esme Kenney went for a jog in her neighborhood. Tragically, she never made it home. Her body was found on Sunday morning. The man charged with her murder is Anthony Kirkland, a convict who recently had a warrant put out for his arrest for failing to update his address as a sex offender.
- Congress should not only reauthorize these important programs, but must provide adequate funding so they can be effective!

## **Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2009:**

The expiring programs reauthorized by this bill include:

1. The Sex Offender Management Assistance Program (SOMA) – this provision awards grants to states to assist with the implementation of the sex offender registry under the AWA.
2. Pilot Program for Monitoring Sexual Offenders – this provision empowers the Attorney General to make grants to state, local and tribal governments in order to outfit sex offenders with electronic monitoring devices. It authorizes appropriations of \$5 million for fiscal years 2010-2014 and thereafter requests the Attorney General to report on the effectiveness of the program.
3. Grants to Combat Sexual Abuse of Children – this provision establishes a grant program for law enforcement agencies to combat sexual abuse of children with authorized appropriations of the necessary sums for fiscal years 2010-2014.
4. Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program – this provision creates the Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program to enable state, local and tribal grantees to verify the addresses of registered sex offenders with authorization of the necessary appropriations for fiscal years 2010-2014 and the requirement of an Attorney General's report on the effectiveness of the program.
5. Fugitive Safe Surrender – this provision instructs the Marshals Service to establish and coordinate a Fugitive Safe Surrender program in designated cities for the capture of fugitives from federal, state and local justice. It authorizes appropriations of \$8 million for that purpose in fiscal years 2010-2014.
6. Sex Offender Apprehension Grants; Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Grants – this provision creates a grant program available to both public and private entities that assist in treatment of juvenile sex offenders or that assist the states in their enforcement of sex offender registration requirements. Appropriations are authorized for fiscal years 2010-2014 in such amounts as are necessary in the case of the enforcement grants and in the amount \$10 million per year in the case of the juvenile sex offender grants.

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